

The Mirror

OF

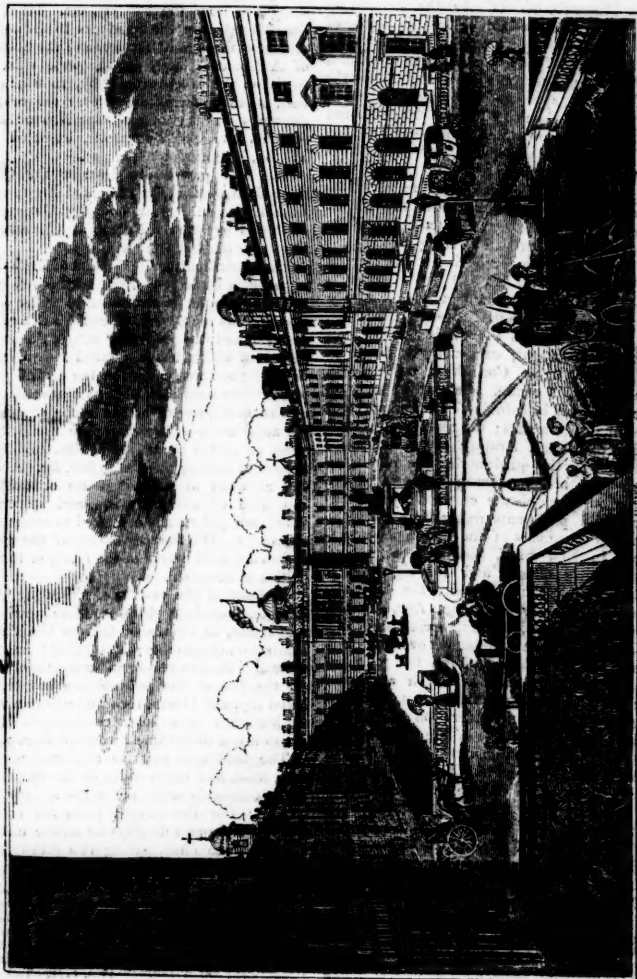
LITERATURE, AMUSEMENT, AND INSTRUCTION.

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[PRICE 2d.

SOMERSET HOUSE.



THE QUADRANGLE.

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IN our thirteenth volume, (p. 242,) will be found an historical outline of Somerset House, from its foundation to the building of the present magnificent pile, from the designs and under the superintendence of the late Sir William Chambers, Knt., Comptroller of His Majesty's Works. In the summer of 1780, Sir William laid before the House of Commons, descriptive particulars of the state and progress of the edifice, and estimated that its cost would certainly not exceed 250,000*l.*; in 1790, it appeared that there had been expended on Somerset House, 334,703*l.*, and that 35,500*l.* was estimated to be still wanted to complete the structure. But the cost did not stop here; for, altogether, the building expenses of this edifice have amounted to more than half a million sterling, exclusive of the sum recently expended in completing the river front, appropriated as King's College.

Somerset House, occupying a space about 800 feet* in width, and 500 feet in depth, is built in the form of a quadrangle, with a large court in the centre. The northern front, or that facing the Strand, is composed of a rustic basement, supporting a range of 10 three-quarter Corinthian columns, of which, in the centre, is an attic; and, on each side, are balustrades. In the basement are nine large arches; the three central ones being open, and forming the entrance, or vestibule to the quadrangle: the others, on each side, are filled with windows of the Doric order, which are crowned by entablatures and pediments rising from pilasters. On the keystones of the arches are sculptured in bold relief, nine colossal masks, representing *Ocean*, and the eight great rivers of England, namely, the *Thames*, *Humber*, *Mersey*, *Medway*, *Dee*, *Tweed*, *Tyne*, and *Severn*, with appropriate emblems. Within the intercolumniations over the basement, are the windows of the two principal floors; the lowermost of which are ornamented with pilasters, entablatures, and pediments of the Ionic order: on the tablets which occupy the frieze of the three middle windows are medallions, in *basso-relievo*, of George the Third and his Queen, and George the Fourth; when Prince of Wales. The attic extends over three intercolumniations, and is surmounted by a group of the Genius of England and Fame, supporting a large shield, crowned, and sculptured with the arms of the British empire: four colossal statues, in senatorial habits, with the fasces in one hand, and the symbols of Justice, Truth, Valour, and Temperance, respectively,

* Sir William Chambers, in his description, stated that the river front would, when finished, according to the general design, extend in length 800 feet. It is now, certainly, one of the finest terraces in the world.

in the other, stand on pedestals, in front of the attic, which is thus separated into three divisions; those at the sides having elliptical windows, enriched with festoons of oak and laurel.

Within the vestibule are a carriage-way and two foot-ways, separated by two ranges of Doric columns, which, with their entablatures, support the vaults; on the latter are sculptures from the antique, &c. Here, on the east side, are the entrances to the apartments of the Royal Society, and the Society of Antiquaries, and, on the west side, to those of the Royal Academy, in which is their annual *Exhibition*:† over the central doorways are busts of Sir Isaac Newton, and Michael Angelo Buonarrotti, executed by Wilton, in Portland stone.

We now proceed to describe the *Quadrangle*, figured in the subjoined Engraving, from a Sketch, by the obliging Correspondent who supplied the views of Chatsworth House, in our last volume.

The inner front of the division of the building already described, or the northern side of the Quadrangle, is considerably wider than that towards the Strand. It consists of a *corps de logis*, and two projecting wings, the architecture of which has a general resemblance to the Strand front; but, in the central part, pilasters are used instead of columns: statues of the four quarters of the globe ornament the attic, and over the centre are the British arms, supported by marine deities, holding a festoon of netting filled with fish, &c. Above the columns of the wings are ornaments, composed of antique altars and sphinxes, which are judiciously contrived to screen the chimneys. On the key-stones of the great arches are bold masks of the *lares*, or tutelary deities of the place.

In front of the vestibule, within the Quadrangle, close to a deep, well-like area, is a fine statue, in bronze, of George the Third, leaning upon a rudder; and behind are the prow of a Roman vessel, and a couchant lion. At the foot of the pedestal is a bronze, colossal figure of Ocean, reclining upon an urn: at his back is a large cornucopia. This group is one of the finest works of Bacon.

The bold and massive character of the east, west, and south sides of the Quadrangle, corresponds with the sides already described; but the central parts are varied. That of the south displays an arcade of four Corinthian columns, having two pilasters on

† The apartments of the Royal Society and the Society of Antiquaries were assigned to those bodies, on the completion of this division of the building, in 1780. Those of the Royal Academy were also allotted to that body in the same year; but the royal apartments in the old palace had been previously occupied by the Academicians, under a grant of George III., dated January 14th, 1771. The first Exhibition at Somerset House opened on May 1st., 1780 (*Britton's Illustrations*); so that the Exhibition which was closed on Saturday last, was the fifty-fifth.

each side, within which the windows of the front slightly recede. These columns support a pediment, in the tympanum of which is a large *basso-relievo*, representing the arms of the navy of Great Britain, supported by a sea-nymph, drawn by sea-horses, and guarded by Tritons blowing concha. On the corners of the pediment are military trophies, and the whole is terminated by elegant vases, placed above the columns.

The east and west fronts are similar to the preceding. In the centre of each is a small tower, with a clock; and in the centre of the south front is a dome. "On the east, west, and south sides, there are two stories of offices below the general level of the Quadrangle, and there is one on the northern side. The areas are fronted by stone balustrades; and flights of stone steps lead down to the underground offices and passages of communication."*

The Thames front, which is composed more in the Venetian style of architecture, from its extent and elevation, is of striking magnificence. It consists of a centre and two wings, with columns, pilasters, pediments, &c.; and at the extremity of the buildings which form the Quadrangle, are archways, opening from the terrace to Somerset Place on the west, and, on the east, to the premises of King's College. The terrace is skirted with a balustrade, and forms a beautiful promenade, with an enlivening prospect of the river, with Waterloo Bridge, the finest structure of its kind in the world, directly on the west, and Westminster Bridge in the distance; with Blackfriars Bridge eastward. This terrace, or embankment, rises from an arcade of massive rustic work, having a wide arch, or water-gate in the centre, surmounted with a colossal mask of the river *Thames*; and the eighth arch on each side forms a landing-place to the warehouses, under the building. These latter arches are flanked by projections and rustic columns, and surmounted by enormous figures of couchant lions in Portland stone, between eight and nine feet in length.

The present arrangement of the offices in Somerset House, is as follows: on the north side, on the west of the principal entrance, are the Royal Academy, and the Legacy Duty Office; on the east side are the Royal Society, the Exchequer Offices, and the Geological Society; the eastern side of the court is occupied by the Audit, Tax, and Duchy of Cornwall Offices; the western side by the Victualling, Navy Pay, and Transport Offices; and the southern portion by the Navy Office and Stamp Office. The eastern wing of the building is now completed, and forms the locality of the King's College; the western wing, called *Somerset Place*, is occu-

pied by the Treasurer, Physician, Surveyor, and Hydrographer of the Navy; and by the Chairmen and Commissioners connected with the Admiralty.

The first stone of Somerset House was laid in the year 1776.† The period of its completion is not so easily to be ascertained; unless we refer it to the recent perfecting of the river front by King's College. It is, altogether, a magnificent pile. Its ornamental details are very elaborate. The Ionic, Composite, and Corinthian capitals to be seen in various parts of the building, were copied from models executed at Rome, under the direction of Sir William Chambers, and imitated, both in point of forms and manner of workmanship, from the choicest antique originals. The sculptors employed on the decorative accessories were Carlini, Wilton, Geracci, Nollekens, and Bacon.

Mr. Papworth, an architectural critic of accredited taste, observes: "The exterior of Somerset House is considered to be the perfection of masonry, and the sculptures that decorate the various parts, are not equalled by the ornamental accessories of any of our great national buildings: the decorations of the interior are no less entitled to applause. The elegant simplicity of the building as a whole; the proportion of its parts, and their relative accordance, may vie with the noblest structures in the metropolis; and, in some respects, may be pronounced superior to any."

Mr. Allan Cunningham considers that, "of the many buildings which Sir William Chambers designed, the most remarkable is Somerset House—a work magnificent in extent, abounding in splendid staircases, and exhibiting considerable skill in the interior arrangements—but cumbersome withal. There are errors in its detail which nothing can remove. On the side next the Thames, in each wing, a portico stands on the summit of a semicircular arch, the bases of two out of its four columns resting on the hollow part, and giving an air of insecurity altogether intolerable in architecture.‡ The vases on the summit are alike unmeaning and inelegant. Yet, with all its defects—and they are not few—Somerset House must be classed among the finest of our later public buildings: indeed, I know hardly any that rank before it, except the Bank of England and the Post-Office. It brought the architect an income during its erection of 2,000*l.* a-year, and greatly increased his reputation at home and abroad."§

† Upon a brick in the wall of the western terrace, or Somerset Place, is cut "R^oE. 1780."

‡ Few persons are more sensible of this defect than ourselves: that is, if almost daily observation be considered sufficient testimony.—*Ed. M.*

§ Lives of the British Architects, p. 351.

* Britton's Illustrations of the Public Buildings of London.

Manners and Customs.

PRISONERS BEGGING.

(To the Editor.)

WHILST looking over Somner's *Antiquities of Canterbury*, (edition 1703, p. 19,) I met with the following passage, which I should be obliged if some one of your antiquarian readers would elucidate.

The author, in speaking of the Castle, proves from a passage which he has extracted from the Crown Rolls, that the common prison was within it.

The Record says: "The Escape of Walter de Wedering, and Martinat Gate de Lamberherst. These prisoners of our Lord the King in the Castle at Canterbury, sat bound in a certain place called Barbican, nigh the same Castle, to beg their bread. It happened that, on Shrove-Tuesday, in the reign of King Edward the Second, before sunset, the same Walter broke the padlock, or a link of the chain, with which he was bound, and drew away with him the said Martin, against the will of the said Martin, to the Church of St. Marie's of the Castle, where he remained, and abjured the Kingdom of England: and Martin, of his own accord, returned to prison."

The point I wish explained is, that of prisoners being placed in a public situation, for the purpose of *begging their food*. I cannot find mention made of such a custom in any of the authorities which I have consulted.

ERNLE CRASHAW.

Near Weymouth.

[Was not the practice of the prisoners' box, at the grated window of the Fleet Prison, facing the Market, a relic of this custom?—*Ed. M.*]

BLESSING THE SEA.

AN old custom, which had been discontinued for the last forty years, was lately revived at Ostend, with great pomp. A very numerous procession, consisting of priests and a great number of inhabitants, with lighted tapers, fuming censers, and banners, attended by the civic guard and the troops of the garrison, marched to the shore, where, after the prayers proper on the occasion, the chief clergyman gave his benediction to the ocean.

—*Antwerp Journal*.

Anecdote Gallery.

MILITARY ANECDOTES.

A COLONEL, to whom Henry IV. of France was attached, came to take orders previous to an engagement, and availed himself of the opportunity to request payment of a sum which was due to him. The King hastily told him it was unlike a man of honour to

ask for money when he ought to have been attending to the orders for battle. Immediately after, when Henry was ranging his troops, he went up to the officer, and said, "Colonel, we are now in the field—perhaps we shall never meet again—it is not just that I should deprive a brave gentleman of his honour—I come, therefore, to declare, that I know you to be an honest man, and incapable of committing a base action." Saying this, he embraced him with great affection. The Colonel burst into tears, and replied, "Oh, sire, in restoring me to my honour, you have deprived me of life—I should be unworthy of your favour did I not this day sacrifice it on this field." He fell in the action.

On the eve of the battle of Hohenlinden, Moreau was at supper with a party of officers, when a despatch was delivered to him. After he had read it, he said to his guests, though he was far from being in the habit of boasting, "I am here made acquainted with Baron Kray's movements: they are all I could wish. To-morrow we will take from him 10,000 prisoners." Moreau took 40,000, besides a great many flags.

Both the movements beyond the passes and the attack on Dresden were undertaken against the advice of Moreau. His conduct and demeanour, since his arrival at the army, had been generally spoken of in the highest terms; and he was the greatest loss the army could then have sustained. His heroism was truly great; after the fatal shot, he spoke to the Emperor Alexander with the most perfect self-possession, never uttered a groan, and smoked a cigar the moment after the shot had struck him.

Latour Maubourg lost his leg at the battle of Leipsic. After he had suffered amputation with the greatest courage, he saw his servant crying, or pretending to cry, in one corner of the room. "None of your hypocritical tears, you idle dog," said his master; "you know you are very glad, for now you will have only one boot to clean instead of two."

At the siege of Valenciennes it was impossible to make the Duke of York cautious. He once came round to look at the works carrying on, so far as to be within reach of a gun of the enemy. Count Jarnac perceiving this, went up to him and said, "Your Royal Highness' coat has attracted attention. Let me advise you not to continue your walk this way." He then pointed out a path by which he might retreat in safety. The Duke took the warning very good-humouredly, but said, "I came with an intention to go this way round, and I cannot go back for fear of a cannon ball." He had passed the point of danger but a moment, when the ball reached the sentinel within a few yards of him.

The Duke of York remarked to Colonel W——, at the mess of the 11th regiment, that the Colonel was uncommonly bald, and, though a younger man than his Royal Highness, he stood more in need of a wig. The Colonel, who had been of very long standing in the service, and whose promotion had been by no means rapid, informed his Royal Highness that his baldness could be very easily accounted for. "In what manner?" asked his Royal Highness, rather eagerly. To which Colonel W—— replied, "By junior officers stepping over my head." The Duke was so pleased with the reply that the gallant Colonel obtained a promotion a few days afterwards.

General Meadows, equally renowned for his wit and bravery, being on a reconnoitring party in the Mysore country, a twenty-four pound shot struck the ground at some distance from the General, and was passing in such a direction as would have exposed him to danger, had he continued his route. Quick as lightning he stopped his horse, and pulling off his hat very gracefully, as the shot rolled on, good-humouredly said, "I beg you to proceed, sir; I never dispute precedence with any gentleman of your family."

Colonel Green, (says the Duchess of Abrantes,) was to dine with us one day. After waiting for him a long time, we sat down to dinner. He arrived at the second course. "It seems, my dear Green," said Junot, "that your watch is too slow." "Oh, no, General," replied Green; "but as I was passing through the Rue Vivienne, I had the misfortune to break twelve guineas' worth of an old woman, and that delayed my arrival." His carriage had, in fact, thrown down an old woman, who uttered such dreadful yells, that Green thought she must be seriously injured. He, therefore, got out, and examined her, and finding that she was not much hurt, gave her some money and was about to proceed; but she again cried out that she was about to die, had him arrested by the guard, and he only got off by giving her three or four hundred francs for an accident by no means serious.

Colonel Guise, going over on a campaign to Flanders, showed much kindness to a young raw officer who happened to take his passage in the same vessel, and the Colonel took him under his conduct to Antwerp. Some wags, noticing how simple and credulous was this youth, told him he would be despised by his corps if he did not soon challenge some distinguished officer to single combat. The youth said he knew no distinguished officer but Colonel Guise, and he owed him the greatest obligations: they replied, that Colonel Guise's favours were no obstacle, since he knew no one else, to become the instrument of vindicating his

honour by a rencontre; and a gentleman of such known bravery was the fittest antagonist he could have. The young man lost no time in applying to Colonel Guise; but feeling prevailed over all other objects, and he prefaced the challenge by expressing gratitude for the attention bestowed upon him. "Sir," replied the Colonel, "I have done my duty and no more." "But, Colonel," faltered the youth, "I am told that it is absolutely necessary for me to fight some gentleman of known courage and high honour; and that nobody——" "Oh, sir," answered Colonel Guise, "your friends do me too much honour; but there is a gentleman well known to have killed half the regiment." The youth, tractable to the advice of his benefactor and commanding officer, applied to a huge, fierce-looking man, seated at one of the coffee-house tables, and saying, that being well informed of his bravery, he must request a meeting with such a distinguished officer. "Who! I, sir," replied the gentleman; "I am Peel, the surgeon." Colonel Guise undecieved the youth, and the story ended, as it should, in a joke.

W. G. C.

Spirit of Discovery.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

[We have received within the last three months as many numbers of the *New South Wales Magazine*, printed at Sydney, and sold for half-a-crown each. Of the contents of the first Number, we gave a specimen or two in our volume just completed. As a first Number it was passing good; the Editor promised better things, and in Nos. 2 and 3 he has kept his word. They contain several papers of valuable information respecting the state and prospects of the Colony, its social condition, and occasional explorations of its natural wonders. The writers of these pages set about their subjects in right earnest, and a straight-forwardness characterizes their views which makes them of sterling worth. In this Magazine, there is little of the silky subtlety, or the fine-spun fooleries, which disfigure most of the magazines of the old world. Such matters have little interest for men whose minds are bent upon framing a new scheme of society, and studying the avoidance of the heaven of the old system. The subjects in these Numbers are of a more manly character, though not without an admixture of poetry and romance, to suit the softer sex. Of sterner interest are such papers as, Proposed Improvements in Sydney,—Retribution of the Aborigines,—The Transportation System,—Australian Zoology,—The Revenue and Expenditure,—Australian Sand,—Improved Method of Washing Sheep,—and in each Number, a

Historical Register of the Legislative, Commercial, and other Occurrences of the Month. To our taste, the most striking paper in this infant Journal of an infant world, is an Outline of the Establishment of a Mechanics' School of Arts at Sydney, and the Introductory Lecture, by the Vice President, the Rev. H. Carmichael. The School originated with a party of "such labourers as the Colony stood most in want of," who, under the personal superintendence of Dr. Lang, left Greenock, in the *Stirling Castle*, in June, 1831. During the voyage, it was proposed to the steerage passengers to form a class for studying daily, arithmetic and the elements of geometry. At first, many professed their willingness to join such a class; but, from the varied circumstances under which their previous habits had been formed, and their knowledge of ciphering acquired, few came forward to join the class: there were many lookers-on, but not above five or six of the mechanics on board continued to keep together as a class to the end of the voyage. The class met daily, except on Sundays and Thursdays, (provision day,) and was seldom interrupted during the voyage; so that, before arriving at Port Jackson, the demonstrations of the whole six books of Euclid had been gone through.]

After leaving the Cape of Good Hope, a proposal was made to form another class,—to meet twice a-week, for the purpose of discussing, in conversation, the principles of Political Economy. This proposal was met with eagerness; and a class of thirty of the steerage passengers immediately enrolled themselves. This class met first on the 9th of September, and continued regularly to meet twice a-week till the vessel arrived in Bass's Straits, when the meeting took place four days consecutively, for the sake of finishing the prescribed course, before the termination of the voyage. During these conversations, the whole of the subjects illustrated so copiously in the first two books of the *Wealth of Nations* were brought under discussion, although not precisely in the order observed by Dr. Smith. The topics chiefly dwelt upon were—the laws which regulate the wages of labour, and the price of commodities in general; the origin and nature of rent; the question of population; the nature of capital; the nature and effects of machinery; and the importance of extending to all ranks of society such a course of education as should embrace an exposition of the leading truths of economical science.

[In connexion with these studies, the expediency and advantages were discussed, of forming an association to combine a Mechanics' Institution and a Benefit Society; and a skeleton of such a society was drawn up, with the intention, on the part of the mechanics, of bringing its plan into operation, as

soon as possible after their arrival in New South Wales. Amidst the difficulties of a first settlement, and especially those which beset the emigrants by the *Stirling Castle*, the scheme sketched on board for their guidance on shore was not followed up. Nothing was done effectually among the mechanics themselves; but some time after, the Governor of the Colony, (with a liberal policy, which some of the rulers of the Old World would do well to imitate,) consulted Mr. Carmichael upon the possibility of establishing a Mechanics' Institute in Sydney; and, from this, resulted the formation of a society for the dissemination of knowledge, and the play of mutual instruction among its members,—that should be as *inexclusive* in its constitution, and as economical in its proceedings, as might seem consistent with its beneficial tendency. We request attention to the word marked in *Italic*, which gives to the Sydney society a character widely different from associations formed with the same main object in our own country. It is named the *Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts*; the Governor is the patron; lectures are delivered every week; evening classes are formed for instruction in Mathematics, Drawing, Music, and French. Up to August, 1833, there had been delivered Lectures on Agriculture, the Natural History of Man, Mechanics, Animal Physiology, the Steam Engine, and Hydrostatics. The proceedings of the Institution were opened by Mr. Carmichael's Lecture, already alluded to; and, from this very interesting document, we are enabled to quote a few passages, which throw considerable light upon the ascertained wealth, as well as upon the hitherto unexplored resources, of this important country.]

So different, in many respects, are the physical features of this vast island from those of other lands, that some intelligent men have considered it to have been of much more recent formation than other parts of the earth. It has been held not unlikely that, besides our moon, there revolve other satellites round our earth, which, from the smallness of their masses, taking into consideration the distance of their orbits, must be to us invisible. It has been further conceived, that from disturbing causes, the nature and agency of which are not yet known, these bodies may be deflected from their orbits, so that their centripetal may overbalance their centrifugal force. On this idea, the fall of meteoric stones has been considered as explicable; and to this class of phenomena the existence of New Holland itself has been referred. New Holland has been conjectured to have been one of these revolving bodies, drawn somehow or other out of its orbit, so as to come within the range of the earth's immediate attraction. This fanciful and unsupported opinion is

noticed here, merely for the sake of bringing into view, that the physical characteristics of this country are acknowledged to be peculiar: and that there is, therefore, in their determination, a vast field open to the scrutiny of the physical observer. We have, in this country, an almost unexplored field of research; and we know not what discoveries await our investigations. Some progress, no doubt, has been made in the observation of natural phenomena; and we know, in consequence, just enough to quicken our anxiety to know more. Several important facts, in geology, for instance, have come under observation. Our scientific and indefatigable President, Major Mitchell, has made a survey of the depositories of that immense collection of fossil bones which have been found imbedded in the rocks and in the lime-stone caves of Wellington valley; several hundred specimens of which, with numerous drawings, he is understood to have transmitted to the Royal Society of London. It has been found, it would appear, that these bones contain no animal matter, and may thus be considered as indicating an antiquity greater than can be claimed for those found in the rocks of Gibraltar. Among the specimens of these fossil bones which were taken to Europe by Dr. Lang, one, now in the possession of Professor Jameson, of Edinburgh, which was detached from the rock by Mr. Rankin, of Bathurst, has been pronounced by the celebrated Baron Cuvier to be part of the thigh-bone of a young elephant. In this department of research, therefore, we may yet have it in our power to produce ample facts for aiding the speculations of science. The mineralogical treasures of the country, however, are, properly speaking, yet to be ascertained; although several valuable products are well known to exist in abundance. We are all familiar with that excellent specimen of coal, which is brought to us abundantly from Newcastle, Hunter's river; and we know that a beginning has already been made in the furnishing of our Sydney houses with beautiful chimney pieces of Argyle marble. Both carbonate and sulphate of lime, (common limestone and plaster of Paris,) are found in great abundance in the districts of the William's and the Hunter; which would admit of easy and profitable transportation for architectural and agricultural purposes here; saltpetre, it is said, may be procured in any given quantity from the soil adjoining Lake George; and sulphur from an island near New Zealand: so that we may thus be considered as having within ourselves one of the essential elements of self-defence. The clay about Sydney is said, by competent judges, to be of the very best quality possible for the manufacture of pottery:—copper ore, of considerable richness, is found in the district of Wellington valley:—specimens of

magnetic iron ore, or loadstone, have been brought from the William's river. All these are important facts in the mineralogical history of the Colony; but they grow into still greater importance, when they are considered as embracing the assurance that, where these natural products are found, others of at least equal value can be at no great distance; and that they, as well as many yet undiscovered, will be turned to utility and profit at no very distant day. And as one of the important results of the establishment and successful working of the present Institution, we may surely consider the more speedy development of the still unknown resources of the territory. Who can doubt, for instance, that, had there been earlier established an Institution, such as has now been most auspiciously commenced, the iron and copper ores of the territory would have been smelted among us; especially, since we have reached that point of progress where we begin to deem it expedient to commence the manufacture of steam-engines in the Colony? And here it may be observed, that in using charcoal from the wood of the country for smelting the metallic ores, we would possess a considerable advantage over the iron smelters of the mother country; as it is well known that the greater purity of the iron and copper which are procured from Sweden, arises from the use of wood instead of coal in the process of smelting the ores.

As to the vegetable kingdom, too, although the botanical productions of this country have already contributed largely to the flora of the world, yet the mercantile and domestic value of our native vegetation has not been fully investigated; whilst the known capacities of the soil, and climate together, for bringing to maturity the varied vegetation of other countries, are yet in a great measure to be taken advantage of. In this respect, the ability and zeal of the late colonial botanist, Mr. Frazer—the success of Mr. William M'Arthur—the ambition of Mr. James Busby—and the indefatigable industry of Mr. Shepherd—are not to be overlooked. Yet, in this department of exertion, there is still open, to the various settlers in the territory, the amplest field for pleasurable and profitable enterprise. Our industrious and intelligent townsman, Mr. Mackie, for instance, has succeeded in obtaining from the mangrove, a sufficiency of appropriate alkali, for the purposes of his valuable manufacture, and has been rewarded by that success which his superior sagacity has richly merited. The late Mr. Kent, it is well known, suggested a preparation of mimosa bark, for the purposes of tanning, which accomplished an important saving in the freight of the manufactured article, compared with that of the bark itself, and was justly rewarded by Government with a large grant of land for this exercise of his

ingenuity. And had a Mechanics' School of Arts been brought earlier into operation here, are we to doubt that, prosperous as our condition has been for some time back, we should, at the present moment, have been still much in advance, both in the value of our natural productions, and in the number of our manufacturing processes? Would not greater attention have been paid to that important chemical process, the manufacture of colonial leather? Would not the manufacture of salt, for the purposes of curing our colonial beef, have been conducted in such wise, as to render it unnecessary to procure it from the mother country? Had the gums of the country been properly examined and analyzed, there is every reason to think, that the discovery of some valuable article of commerce, or of medicine, would have been the result? Had the present illuminator of Sydney had the benefit of attending lectures in the theatre of a Mechanics' Institution, the town would, no doubt, long ago, have been lit up by "*blazing stars*" of gas, more worthy of the designation far than those which at present confer lustre on his name; and the manufacture of sperm, besides, would have, long ere now, been turned to profitable and useful account. Had men been accustomed to meet together here, professedly for the purpose of discussing matters of science, and of devising the best modes of multiplying the comforts of society, the various departments of art would have been plied among us with much greater efficiency, and our Colonial Government been saved the trouble and odium of much equivocal legislation. With the aid of science, and under the play of free competition, for instance, the important processes of distillation and brewing would have been on a far different footing from that on which they stand at present; and our agriculturists would have found out remedies for the prevention of scab much more effective and much more appropriate than legislative enactments.

(To be continued.)

The Naturalist.

HOW TO KEEP FLIES OUT OF HOUSES.

IN the *Entomological Magazine* for the present month, it is reported that at a meeting of the Entomological Society on the seventh of last April, "The Secretary read a paper by Mr. Spence, detailing a curious mode, adopted in Italy, of excluding the house-fly from houses. The plan consisted simply in straining a net, made of white thread, across the aperture of an open window: the meshes of the net were about half an inch in diameter. It had occurred to Mr. Spence, whether it could be the dread of a spider's net which caused the flies to avoid this

thread-net, but on consideration he had determined otherwise, and he was totally at a loss how to account for so singular a circumstance." It is to be hoped that Mr. Spence's information will not be lost on the public. The proprietors of eating-houses, coffee-houses, and other establishments in which flies abound to so great an excess as to annoy the company, would do well to adopt the above ingenious and simple method of banishing the nuisance. The net could be stretched across a frame, so made as to allow of its being fixed to, and removed from, the open window at pleasure. J. H. F.

INSECTS INJURIOUS TO AGRICULTURE.

It appears, by the *Entomological Magazine*, that the Council of the Entomological Society have agreed "to appropriate annually the sum of five guineas, as a prize for the best essay on the history of any insect prejudicial to agriculture, accompanied with figures, and detailing the result of experiments made for prevention or cure of its attacks. The turnip-fly is the subject of the first essay, which must be delivered with a fictitious signature, at 17, Old Bond Street, by the fourth Monday, in January, 1835, and be addressed to the Secretary of the Society."

Temple.

J. H. F.

GIGANTIC HERRING.

THERE was lately caught in the stake-nets at Irwine, in Ireland, a herring 22 inches in length, and about 12 inches round the middle; the weight was $3\frac{1}{4}$ lb.

THE WILD-DOG, OR HUNTING HYÆNA.

THIS species of *hyæna* is remarkable for hunting in regular packs: though in general a nocturnal animal, it frequently pursues its prey by day; and as it is well formed by nature for speed, none but the fleetest animals can escape. Sheep and oxen, therefore, are more particularly exposed to its attacks: the first openly, but the latter only by stealth, as in the present instance, surprising them in their sleep and suddenly biting off their tails; which the large opening and great power of their jaws, enable them to do with ease.

This animal is smaller, and of a more slender make, than either the common Striped Hyæna, or the Spotted, or *Crocota*. The general, or ground colour, is a sandy bay, or an ochraceous yellow, shaded with a darker brown. The whole body is blotched and brindled with black, intermingled in various parts with spots of white; and the legs are generally marked in the same manner. All these spots and markings are exceedingly irregular, and, in some degree, vary in different individuals. Its more constant marks are, a deep black stripe extending from the nose up the middle of the face and between the



(The Wild Dog, or Hunting Hymna.)

ears: these, blackish both within and without, and covered with short close hair, which is sometimes very thin: at the anterior margin of the ears, on the inside, a thin and observable tuft of whitish hairs: the nose and muzzle, black. The tail is bushy, like that of the fox, and is divided in the middle by a ring of black, above which, or towards the insertion, the colour is nearly the same as the general tint of the body; but below, or towards the end, it is white.

The *osteology* of this animal throws some difficulty in the way of its generic arrangement, and even raises some doubt as to the propriety of dividing the Linnæan genus, *Canis*, by characters which might pass as merely specific, or as convenient only for a generic subdivision. The Dog, the Wolf, and this *Hymna*, correspond in having six grinders in their upper jaw: and in their lower, seven; of which the hindmost is very small. They also agree in the form, and number, of their ribs and lumbar vertebræ; having seven of the latter. Their ribs, of which there are thirteen, are thin and narrow. But both in the Striped, and the Spotted, *Hymna*, they are fifteen in number, and of an extraordinary breadth; and are, proportionally much stronger and larger, than in any quadruped of their size: in these, the grinders are only four, or at most five, in number; and the lumbar vertebræ not more than five.

The present animal, therefore, with respect to its teeth, ribs, and lumbar vertebræ, would be arranged in the genus *Canis*; from which, however, it differs by having but four toes on each foot; and, it is said, in other essential particulars. With the genus *Hymna*, it agrees in number of toes, but differs from it in teeth, and in conformation of the skeleton.

The subjoined figures were drawn from a living subject given to Mr. Burchell by a friend; and which Mr. Burchell kept in his possession for thirteen months, chained up in

a stable. During that time its ferocious nature deterred every body from an attempt at taming it; but it became at length so much softened in manners, as to play with a common domestic dog, also chained up in the yard, without manifesting any desire of hurting its companion; but the man who fed it, dared never to venture his hand upon it.—*Abridged from Burchell's Travels in Africa.*

THE CELL OF THE BEE.

WHEN we behold this little creature constructing its cell, to contain its winter stock, and constructing it of that form which is demonstrably the strongest, and the most convenient, it seems the extravagance of absurdity to suppose, that the instinct by which it is directed is the offspring of ignorance. The phenomenon, indeed, is one of the most extraordinary that the animal world presents to our contemplation. It must be evident to every one who has given the least attention to the obvious properties of different figures, that there are only three which will admit the junction of their sides, without any vacant spaces between them—all the figures being equal and similar; namely, the square the equilateral triangle, and the hexaedron: of these, the last is the strongest and the most convenient. In this form, then, we find that all the cells are constructed. This is a curious and wonderful fact; and, what is equally remarkable, the middle of every cell, on one side, is directly opposite to the point where the three partitions meet on the opposite side. By this position, the cell receives additional strength. This is not all. If human ingenuity were to contrive a cell, which would require the least expenditure of material and labour, it would be a question, not easily solved, at what precise angle the three planes which compose the bottom ought to meet. The late celebrated mathematician, Maclaurin, by a fluxionary calculus,

determined precisely the angle required; and he found, by the most exact mensuration the subject would admit, that it is the very angle in which the three planes in the bottom of a cell of a honey-comb do actually meet. The same curious fact was ascertained by a German mathematician:—Reaumur, presuming that the angles were adopted for the purpose of saving material, proposed to Koenig, a mathematician of eminence, that he should determine what should be the angles of a hexagonal cell, with a pyramidal base, to require the least material. By the infinitesimal calculus, he ascertained that the greatest angle should be $109^{\circ} 26'$, and the smaller $70^{\circ} 34'$ —the very angles which the insect adopts. What an astonishing coincidence is this! A profound mathematician is required to solve a very difficult problem; and it is found that his conclusion, gained by the exercise of considerable ingenuity and deep thought, was practically exhibited in the operations of the bee. How few are capable of that scientific investigation which this insect illustrates by its practice? It seems the extravagance of folly to believe, that out of the numerous different combinations of which two angles are susceptible, that which *most* saves labour and material should be adopted by random chance or blind necessity. —*Crombie's Natural Theology.*

Select Biography.

DOCTOR DEE,
(Concluded from page 56.)

THE remainder of the voyage of the life of Dee was "bound in shallows and in miseries." Queen Elizabeth, we may suppose, soon found that her dreams of immense wealth to be obtained through his intervention were nugatory. Yet would she not desert the favourite of her former years. He presently began to complain of poverty and difficulties. He represented that the revenue of two livings he held in the church had been withheld from him from the time of his going abroad. He stated that, shortly after that period, his house had been broken into and spoiled by a lawless mob, instigated by his ill fame as a dealer in prohibited and unlawful arts. They destroyed or dispersed his library, consisting of four thousand volumes, seven hundred of which were manuscripts, and of inestimable rarity. They ravaged his collection of curious implements and machines. He enumerated the expenses of his journey home by Elizabeth's commands for which he seemed to consider the queen as his debtor. Elizabeth, in consequence, ordered him at several times two or three small sums. But this being insufficient, she was prevailed upon in 1592, to appoint two members of her privy council to repair to his house at Mortlake to inquire into particulars,

to whom he made a compendious rehearsal of half a hundred years of his life, accompanied with documents and vouchers.

It is remarkable that in this rehearsal no mention occurs of the miraculous stone brought down to him by an angel, or of his pretensions respecting the transmutation of metals. He merely rests his claims to public support upon his literary labours, and the acknowledged eminence of his intellectual faculties. He passes over the years he had lately spent in foreign countries, in entire silence, unless we except his account of the particulars of his journey home. His representation to Elizabeth not being immediately productive of all the effects he expected, he wrote a letter to Archbishop Whitgift, two years after, lamenting the delay of the expected relief, and complaining of the "untrue reports, opinions, and fables, which had for so many years been spread of his studies." He represents these studies purely as literary, frank, and wholly divested of mystery. If the "True Relation of what passed for many years between Dr. Dee and certain Spirits" had not been preserved, and afterwards printed, we might have been disposed to consider all that was said on this subject as a calumny.

The promotion which Dee had set his heart on, was to the office of master of St. Cross Hospital, near Winchester, which the queen had promised him when the present holder should be made a bishop. But this never happened. He obtained, however, in lieu of it the chancellorship of St. Paul's Cathedral, December 8, 1594, which in the following year he exchanged for the wardenship of the college at Manchester. In this last office he continued till the year 1602 (according to other accounts 1604), during which time he complained of great dissensions and refractoriness on the part of the fellows; though it may perhaps be doubted whether equal blame may not fairly be imputed to the arrogance and restlessness of the warden. At length he receded altogether from public life, and retired to his ancient domicile at Mortlake. He made one attempt to propitiate the favour of King James: but it was ineffectual. Elizabeth had known him in the flower and vigour of his days; he had boasted the uniform patronage of her chief favourite; he had been recognised by the philosophical and the learned as inferior to none of their body; and he had finally excited the regard of his ancient mistress by his pretence to revelations, and the promises he held out of the philosopher's stone. She could not shake off her ingrafted prejudice in his favour; she could not find in her heart to cast him aside in his old age and decay. But then came a king, to whom in his prosperity and sunshine he had been a stranger. He wasted his latter days in dotage, obscu-

city, and universal neglect. No one has told us how he contrived to subsist. We may be sure that his constant companions were mortification and the most humiliating privations. He lingered on till the year 1608; and the ancient people in the time of Antony Wood, nearly a century afterwards, pointed to his grave in the chancel of the church at Mortlake, and professed to know the very spot where his remains were deposited.

The history of Dee is exceedingly interesting, not only on its own account; not only for the eminence of his talents and attainments, and the incredible sottishness and blindness of understanding which marked his maturer years; but as strikingly illustrative of the credulity and superstitious faith of the time in which he lived. At a later period his miraculous stone which displayed such wonders, and was attended with so long a series of supernatural vocal communications would have deceived nobody: it was scarcely more ingenious than the idle tricks of the most ordinary conjuror. But at this period the crust of long ages of darkness had not yet been fully worn away. Men did not trust to the powers of human understanding, and were not familiarized with the main canons of evidence and belief. Dee passed six years on the continent, proceeding from the court of one prince or potent nobleman to another, listened to for a time by each, each regarding his oracular communications with astonishment and alarm, and at length irresolutely casting him off, when he found little or no difficulty in running a like career with another.

It is not the least curious circumstance respecting the life of Dee, that in 1659, half a century after his death, there remained still such an interest respecting practices of this sort, as to authorize the printing a folio volume, in a complex and elaborate form, of his communications with spirits. The book was brought out by Dr. Meric Casaubon, no contemptible name in the republic of letters. The editor observes respecting the hero and his achievements in the Preface, that, "though his carriage in certain respects seemed to lay in works of darkness, yet all was tendered by him to kings and princes, and by all (England alone excepted) was listened to for a good while with good respect, and by some for a long time embraced and entertained." He goes on to say, that "the fame of it made the pope bestir himself, and filled all, both learned and unlearned, with great wonder and astonishment." He adds, that, "as a whole it is undoubtedly not to be paralleled in its kind in any age or country." In a word the editor, though disavowing an entire belief in Dee's pretensions, yet plainly considers them with some degree of deference, and insinuates to how much more regard such undue and exaggerated pretensions are

entitled, than the impious incredulity of certain modern Sadducees, who say that "there is no resurrection; neither angel, nor spirit." The belief in witchcraft and sorcery has undoubtedly met with some degree of favour from this consideration, inasmuch as, by recognising the correspondence of human beings with the invisible world, it has one principle in common with the believers in revelation, of which the more daring infidel is destitute.

Notes of a Reader.

HOSPITAL FOR ANIMALS.

[FROM NO. 1. of the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, a work which promises to be an unfailing fund of popular information respecting arts, sciences, and literature in Asia, as well as of learned research in relation to those important objects. It has often occurred to ourselves that *Transactions* of public societies are neither so valuable nor so entertaining as the well-directed energies of their members and contributors might make such records of progressive civilization and refinement. The Number of the journal before us is, however, a splendid exception to this observation. Its subjects promise entertainment to every reader—as curious vessels employed on the coasts of Coromandel, with many illustrations—the Schools of the Hindûs—the River Indus—ancient Chinese vases—the Tabernacle, or Car, of the Hindûs in Ceylon—a Notice of the Circassians, of extreme interest—biographical sketches of a Hungarian traveller, and of Dekkan poets—with the proceedings of the Society, whose best interests this journal so ably represents.]

LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER BURNES, in a paper read before the Royal Asiatic Society, says:—

On the 1st of June, 1823, I visited the *Pinjra Pol*, at Surat; a place which is appropriated for the reception of old, worn-out, lame, or disabled animals. At that time they chiefly consisted of buffaloes and cows; but there were also goats and sheep, and even cocks and hens; some of which latter had lost their feathers, and here, shorn of their plumes, walked about the courts without molestation.

This establishment is supported by the Hindû Banians of Surat; and is situated in that part of the suburbs of the city called *Gopîpura*, between the inner and outer walls. Animals of every description, and from all parts, are admitted to the benefits of this institution; as with their number, the Banians conceive they increase the general happiness, and their own reputation.

The establishment occupies a court about fifty feet square; to which there is a large area attached, to admit of the cattle roving about: it is strewed with grass and straw on all parts, that the aged may want neither food nor bedding. There are cages to protect such birds as have become objects of charity, but most of them were empty: there is, however, a colony of pigeons, which are daily fed.

By far the most remarkable object in this

singular establishment is a house on the left hand on entering, about twenty-five feet long, with a boarded floor, elevated about eight feet: between this and the ground is a depository where the deluded Banians throw in quantities of grain which gives life to and feeds a host of vermin, as dense as the sands on the sea-shore, and consisting of all the various genera usually found in the abodes of squalid misery.

The entrance to this loft is from the outside, by a stair; which I ascended. There are several holes cut in different parts of the floor, through which the grain is thrown: I examined a handful of it which had lost all the appearance of grain: it was a moving mass, and some of the pampered creatures which fed upon it were crawling about on the floor—a circumstance which hastened my retreat from the house in which this nest of vermin is deposited. The *Pinjra Pol* is in the very midst of houses, in one of the most populous cities in Asia; and must be a prolific source of nightly comfort to the citizens who reside in the neighbourhood; to say nothing of the strayed few who manage to make their way into the more distant domains of the inhabitants.

It did not appear that there was any regular period for feeding the vermin; many Hindús being in the habit of throwing in handfuls of grain, at different times, as suits their notions of duty. It is an annual custom in Surat to convey to this place the refuse of all the Banians' granaries in the town; and, at all times throughout the year, to dispose of such grain as may have become unfit for use, in this manner. The house of which I have now been speaking is exceedingly warm, and has a most disagreeable closeness, which I attributed to the quantity of decayed vegetable matter that must have been accumulating for many years, as the people themselves are not aware at what time this establishment was first founded. There are similar institutions to the one I have just described, at almost every large city on the western side of India, and particularly at those places where the Banians or Jains reside. They have their origin, it is well known, in the great desire which possesses the minds of these people to preserve animal life; and though it is comprehensible to a native of Europe why aged cows and horses are preserved, from the circumstance of their having done their owners some service, still there can be no stronger instance of human caprice than to nurture a noxious and offensive mass of vermin, which every other race but themselves are anxious to extirpate and destroy. The great body of Hindús do not protect and preserve animal life as the Banians do; but it is a very common practice among them to feed with regularity pigeons, and even the fish in rivers. I have seen too, at Anjar, in

Cutch, an establishment of rats, conjectured to exceed five thousand in number, which were kept in a temple, and daily fed with flour, which was procured by a tax on the inhabitants of the town!

CIRCASSIAN WOMEN.

In *fêtes*, a degree of gallantry towards the fair sex may be observed; for those who carry off the prizes only contend for them to present to the females. Indeed, on all occasions, the Circassians testify much consideration for them. If a horseman falls in with a woman going the same road, he alights, and requests her to mount: if she declines, he accompanies her on foot as far as their path lies together. But they are not allowed to be in idleness: they are obliged to share all the labour with the slaves. To the latter is allotted the field-work, and the former are charged with the household affairs. Even wealthy women, who, from the number of their servants, are freed from the drudgery of housewifery, do not cease to be well occupied in all the matters relating to clothing. They not only work for their own family, but for others who may be in want of their assistance: these give them the materials for what they require, but do not even thank them for their labour, for their industry is considered to belong to the republic. They exhibit much taste and intelligence in their works; the trimmings of dresses and shoes, in tresses of gold and silver thread, are of the greatest delicacy; and, in carefully examining their performance, we are surprised to see the most minute details attended to with much skill and care.

For the rest, the Circassian women, far from being subjected to the general rule of the East, which separates them from the society of men, enjoy unrestrained liberty, and they do not abuse it. The laws of chastity are known and respected in this country. It is undoubtedly from an excessive delicacy towards these laws that custom prohibits young married people from being found together in a company, especially in the presence of their elders. If it accidentally happens that they meet, even among their nearest relations, and the wife is surprised by the chance arrival of the husband, the other women conceal her, by ranging themselves before her, and withdraw her in this manner. If it is the husband who is in this predicament, he escapes by the window. In general, the Circassian women are tolerably pretty, but their beauty does not deserve the reputation which it has obtained. Their figure is slight and thin, and this appearance is also common to the men. They acquire it by their habit of binding themselves tightly from their earliest infancy—the boys with a belt; the girls with a corset of morocco leather, sewed upon the body, which they

do not change till it is torn, and do not finally leave off till their marriage: the husband removes it on the first night of the nuptials by cutting it off with his dagger. The sober and temperate habits of the Circassians, however, contribute not a little to this spareness of form; for those women who go into the Turkish harems become much fatter.—*Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society.*

THE MANDRAKE.*

THE Mandrake grows 'neath the gallows-tree,
And rank and green are its leaves to see;
Green and rank as the grass that waves
Over the unctuous earth of graves.
And though all around it be bleak and bare,
Freely the Mandrake flourisheth there.

Maranatha—Anathema!
Dread is the curse of Mandragora!
Euthanasy!

At the foot of the gibbet the Mandrake springs,
Just where the creaking carcass swings;
Some have thought it engendered
From the fat that drops from the bones of the dead;
Some have thought it a human thing;
But this is a vain imagining.

Maranatha—Anathema!
Dread is the curse of Mandragora!
Euthanasy!

A charnel leaf doth the Mandrake wear,
A charnel fruit doth the Mandrake bear;
Yet none like the Mandrake hath such great power,
Such virtue resides not in herb or flower;
Anconite, hemlock, or moonshade, I ween,
None hath a poison so subtle and keen.

Maranatha—Anathema!
Dread is the curse of Mandragora!
Euthanasy!

And whether the Mandrake be create
Flesh with the flower incorporate,
I know not; yet, if from the earth 'tis rent,
Shrieks and groans from the root are sent;
Shrieks and groans, and a sweat like gore
Oozes, and drops from the clammy core.

Maranatha—Anathema!
Dread is the curse of Mandragora!
Euthanasy!

* The imaginary malignant and fatal influence of this plant, is frequently alluded to by our elder dramatists; and with one of the greatest of them, Webster, (as might be expected from a charnel muse, that revels like a ghoul in graves and sepulchres, and rakes up hideous and revolting lore,) it is an especial favourite for illustration. But none have plunged so deeply into the disquisition of the supposititious virtues of the Mandrake, as the learned and profound Sir Thomas Browne. He tears up the fable, root and branch. Concerning the danger ensuing from the eradication of the Mandrake, he thus writeth:—"The last assertion is, that there follows a hazard of life to them that pull it up, that some evil fate pursues them, and that they live not very long hereafter. Therefore, the attempt hereof among the ancients, was not in ordinary way; but, as Pliny informeth, when they intended to take up the root of this plant, they took the wind thereof, and with a sword describing three circles about it, they digged it up, looking toward the West. A conceit not only injurious unto truth, and confutable by daily experience, but somewhat derogatory unto the Providence of God; that is, not only to impose so destructive a quality on any plant, but to conceive a vegetable, whose parts are so useful unto many, should, in the only taking up, prove mortal unto any. This were to introduce a second forbidden fruit, and enhance the first malediction, making it not only mortal for Adam to taste the one, but capital for his posterity to eradicate, or dig up the other."—*Vulgar Errors*, book ii., c. vi.

Whoso gathereth the Mandrake shall surely die:
Blood for blood is his destiny.

Some who have plucked it have died with groans,
Like to the Mandrake's expiring moans;
Some have died raving, and some beside—
With penitent prayers—but all have died.

Jesu! save us, by night and day!
From the terrible death of Mandragora!
Euthanasy!
Rookwood.

THE TIGER AND THE LION.

LIEUTENANT JERVIS, in his very entertaining *Journey to the Falls of the Caverry and Neigherry Hills*, tells us that—

In the low land the nature of the tiger is very different from those on the hills. Water, food, and shelter can seldom be obtained but at immense distances, and the tigress as well as the tiger is compelled to traverse many miles before their natural appetites are appeased.

It is the same with the lion of Afric's burning shores; in their natural condition they are compelled to roam over sandy deserts and forests unfrequented by man, for water and food, and their unsettled life precludes any considerable increase. But, when brought to the Cape and kept in confinement, with plenty of food and water, their increase is prodigious. There were lately purchased, at Mons. Villet's, in Cape Town, a lion and lioness stuffed, who were the parents of forty cubs in the course of four years, and afterwards of twenty, making together sixty from one pair. The progeny are scattered over different parts of the world; some were sent to Paris, some to Vienna, some are in Calcutta, and two remain at the Cape. When the lion died, he was incautiously skinned near the den whence the lioness could see him; and her afflicted looks and moaning satisfied the owner, that her death, which took place a month afterwards, was owing to her grief for his loss, as stated in the following certificate, given when they were purchased from him:—

"This lion was fifteen years old, and died about two years since of the liver complaint.

"The lioness died about six weeks afterwards of grief. I had the lioness about fifteen years, and in that period she had sixty cubs.

"She had in the first four years five cubs in a litter, and twice each year. After the fifth year, she had only one litter a year. The names given them were Prince and Princess."

(Signed) "L. W. VILLET."

"Cape Town, 8th Jan. 1833."

HUNTING IN INDIA.

EXCLUSIVE of the sport, which is generally cheered by a good tiffin, occasionally enlivened by the presence of some who would adorn any assembly in the world, a hunting

or shooting party on the Neilgherries derived peculiar attractions, from the extreme beauty and variety of the landscapes. The fresh and purifying air breathing from the mountain tops, through rhododendron-trees clothed with their gorgeous flowers; the wild cinnamon-tree with its own delicate blossom and fragrance, encircled by the honeysuckle and great dog-rose, relieved by a background of stately evergreens; whilst the merry black-birds pouring their melodious notes and making the forest ring with tuneful harmony, made altogether such a scene, as dear Old England can alone surpass. Nor is the chorus the less perfect for an occasional deep note from a fine elk, looking down in seeming defiance from the summit of some neighbouring hill, and majestically descending, with his full antlers and measured step, into a wood on the other side, where some tumbling cataract, or a clear stream running at the bottom of it, affords a good promise of becoming better acquainted with him.—*Lieutenant Jervis's Journey.*

Retrospective Cleanings.

CURIOUS ANCIENT PROSECUTION.

ARISTOTLE, when a boy, contracted an intimacy with Hermias, who, originally in a state of servitude, had been enabled by the bounty of a patron, to prosecute the study of philosophy, and became a fellow-student with Aristotle at Athens. Hermias was raised to the sovereignty of Assus and Atarna, Greek cities of Mysia. Thither, at the invitation of his royal friend, Aristotle repaired, and resided near three years at Atarna; but Hermias being deposed, Aristotle was obliged to fly. When Hermias was put to death by Ataxerxes, king of Persia, Aristotle erected a statue of his friend in the temple of Delphos, and wrote in praise of him an epitaph, and a hymn to virtue, for which he is said to have been arraigned in a court of justice, where he was accused of impiously lavishing upon a mortal such honour and praise as were due only to the gods. There is an elegant translation of this hymn, in Bishop Hurd's *Notes on Horace's Art of Poetry*. It is as follows:—

Virtue! thou source of pure delight,
Whose rugged mien can ne'er affright
The man with courage fir'd;
For thee the sons of Greece have run
To certain ills, which others shun,
And gloriously expir'd.
When'er thy sacred seeds take root,
Immortal are the flow'rs and fruit,
Unfading are the leaves;
Dearer than smiles of parent kind,
Than balmy sleep, or gold refin'd,
The joys thy triumph gives.
For thee the Twins of mighty Jove,
For thee divine Alcides strove,
From vice the world to free;

For thee Achilles quits the light,
And Ajax plunges into night,
Eternal night, for thee.

Hermias, the darling of mankind,
Shall leave a deathless name behind,
For thee untimely slain;

As long as Jove's bright altars blaze,
His worth shall furnish grateful praise.

To all the Muses' train.

P. T. W.

VIOLETS.

THE following lines to a lady, with a present of violets, by T. Swift, Esq. appeared in the *Poetical Register*, for 1803. W. G. C.

These violets to my fair I bring,
The purple progeny of spring;
Nor thou, dear girl, the gift refuse,
Love's earliest tribute to the Muse.

Whate'er has beauty, worth, or power,
Or grace, or lustre, is a flower.
Wit is a flower, and bards prepare
The flowers of fancy for the fair.
In flower of youth the loves appear,
Leading in flowery youth the year;
And beauty's flowery letters bind
In sweet captivity the mind.
With flowers the Graces Venns deck,
And these adorn a fairer neck;
That neck whose paradise to range,
A flower I'd prove and bless the change;
One little hour I'd live—then die,
A violet in that heaven to lie.

Still as you charm, some flowers we trace,
Some blossom of the mind or face.
Does Laura lead the courtly dance?
We hail the flower of elegance.
Does fashion's wreath adorn her brow?
The flower of taste is Laura now.
In Laura's mien, in Laura's mind,
The twin-born flowers of grace we find;
And in her blushing cheek we see
The royal rose of dignity.
Yon lily, symbol of her youth,
Blossoms next her heart, the flower of truth.
Oh! might these violet buds express
The opening flower of tenderness.

But not the brightest flower of spring.
That fancy paints, or poets sing;
Nor these, nor all the sweets that blow,
The rose's blush, the lily's snow,
With thee in excellence compare,
Or breathe so fresh, or bloom so fair:
For in thy bosom lives a flower,
Not time shall spoil, nor death devour—
A flower that no rude season fears,
And virtue's sacred name it bears.

AN UN-LEARNED DOCTOR.

DR. JOHN BULL, who had the honour of being the first that was appointed music professor to Gresham College, was unable to compose and read his lectures in Latin, according to the founder's original intention. Such was his favour with the Queen and the public, that the executors of Sir Thomas Gresham, by the ordinances, bearing date 1597, dispensed with his knowledge of the Latin language, and ordered—"The solemn music lecture to be read twice every week, in manner following, viz. the theoretique part for one half hour, or thereabouts; and the practice, by concert of voice or instrument, for the rest of the hour: whereof the first lecture should be in the Latin tongue, and

the second in English. But because, at this time, Mr. Doctor Bull, who is recommended to the place by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, being not able to speak Latin, his lectures are permitted to be altogether in English, so long as he shall continue in the place of music lecturer there." (See *Ward's Lives of the Professors of Gresham College*.)

P. T. W.

POWER OF MUSIC OVER A CREDITOR.

FILIPPO PALMA, the noted singer, was always in love and debt. Having been caught at home, by surprise, by one of his deepest and most enraged creditors, from whom he had been long skulking, in order to escape his gripe; and on the inexorable creditor informing him of his business, and of the care that would be taken of his person by the gentleman whom he had brought with him; Palma made no other reply to his abuse and his threats, than by sitting down to the harpsichord, and singing two or three of his most pleasing and touching airs to his own accompaniments: when the fury of the creditor was so softened by degress, that at length he was entirely appeased, and not only forgave him his debt, but lent him ten guineas to stop the mouth of other creditors, who threatened him with a gaol.

But this security was of short duration; for he was soon after thrown into the King's Bench, (as he could not subdue all his creditors with musical notes, not having notes of another kind,) where, (say his biographers,) we visited him, and found him writing to his brother, then a prisoner likewise in York gaol; when, finding that the male Syren was putting his letter into a cover, we informed him of the expense in which it would involve his brother, by a double letter: he replied, "Che fare? é capo di casa, ci vaol rispetto?—What can I do? He is my elder brother, and head of our house; we must show him respect."

P. T. W.

BISHOP AYLMER.

AYLMER's zeal for the Reformation rendered him obnoxious to the Government, so that he found it necessary to withdraw from the country; and as he was of a diminutive size, he made his escape by being concealed in a pipe of wine which had a false bottom, the wine being drawn from the lower half, whilst Aylmer lay hid in the upper. In his exile, he wrote an answer to John Knox's book against the government of women, entitled, "*The First Blast against the monstrous Regiment and Empire of Women*:" his answer was entitled, "*An Harboure for faithful and trewe Subjects against the late blowne Blaste*," &c. printed at Strasburg, in 1559. This book, (says his biographer,) was written with vivacity and learning; but it contained some passages which seemed to

indicate a tendency towards Puritanism, and particularly one, in which he exhorted the bishops to content themselves with moderate incomes, and with a portion, "priest-like, and not prince-like." However, when this passage was afterwards objected to him by his enemies, he vindicated himself by saying, "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, and thought as a child," &c. Of his resolution and personal courage, the two following instances are recorded.

One was his submitting to the extraction of a tooth, in order to encourage Queen Elizabeth to undergo the same operation; and the other was his cudgelling his son-in-law for misconduct towards his wife, who was a favourite daughter.

Mr. Lysons tells us, on the authority of Strype's *Life of Aylmer*, that "the stipend of the curate of Paddington was formerly so small, that it was difficult to find a person who would supply the cure. When Bishop Aylmer's enemies, among other charges, accused him of *ordaining his porter*, the fact was admitted, and justified on this ground; that, being a man of honest life and conversation, the bishop had ordained him to preach to a small congregation at Paddington, where commonly, on account of the meanness of the stipend, no preacher could be had." Strype adds, that this ordained porter, "continued in Paddington, with the good liking of the people, eight or nine years, until he grew dull of sight for age, and thereby unable to serve any longer." Aylmer died at Fulham, 1594, and left seven sons and two daughters, to all of whom he bequeathed large legacies.

He ranked high in regard to talents and learning, but his temper was irritable and violent; he was immoderately fond both of power and money; and he, undoubtedly, possessed an arbitrary and persecuting spirit.

P. T. W.

The Gatherer.

Pleasure Tours.—Sir Francis Head, in his delightful *Bubbles*, after enumerating the economical comforts of the hotel at Schlagenbad, observes: "I have dwelt long upon these apparently trifling details, because, humble as they may sound, I conceive that they contain a very important moral. How many of our country people are always raving about the cheapness of the Continent, and how many every year break up their establishments in England to go in search of it; yet, if we had but sense, or rather courage, to live at home as economically and as rationally as princes and people of all ranks live throughout the rest of Europe, how unnecessary would be the sacrifice, and how much real happiness would be the result."

Dr. Dalton's Pension.—We have heard much of the preferment said to have been lately showered upon persons of high scientific and literary attainments; but, especially, of a small pension granted to Dr. Dalton, who has passed his eightieth year. The Duke of Sussex, at the last anniversary of the Royal Society, referred to this munificent grant, observing, that if not commensurate with Dr. Dalton's services, it is at least as considerable as the severity of existing regulations will allow: although his Royal Highness could not refrain from expressing his regret at the very narrow limits within which the munificence of the King, and the generosity of the nation, should be confined.

The late Sir John Malcolm was one of a family of seventeen children, which enjoyed the distinction of having three of its members created Knights of the Bath in the same year. A monument, by Chantrey, is to be erected to the memory of Sir John Malcolm, in Westminster Abbey, for which ample funds have been provided by the almost spontaneous contributions of his friends: among the subscribers is the name of the Pacha of Egypt.

Mr. Joshua Brookes was for more than forty years a distinguished teacher of anatomy; and he is said to have superintended the education of more than 7,000 pupils. Yet he died in comparative poverty, and despondency at the dispersion of his celebrated Museum!

The Rev. Fearon Fellows, late Astronomer Royal at the Cape of Good Hope, was so true to his duty, that during the most distressing affliction, he was carried daily in a blanket by his servants from his sick room to the observatory, for the purpose of winding up his clocks and chronometers.

The Peerage.—Sir Egerton Brydges considers, there is a want of genuine splendour in the Peerage, unless there be, what he calls, an original nobility. By this, he means that very ancient nobility which has an historical appearance of being derived from Charlemagne. This seems to have been the case with almost all the first Anglo-Norman earls and chief baronial houses.

Love, like death, is a leveller of all distinctions: it will admit of none—will perceive none; and when affection and worldly degree are put in comparison by the lover himself, it is not difficult to foretell by which the scales will be turned.

Love's kingdom is founded

Upon a parity; lord and subject,
Master and servant, are names banished thence.
They wear one fetter all, or all one freedom.

Cartwright.

—Rookwood.

A thunder-storm is the finest of all possible sights, when seen at a distance; but, to

be actually exposed to its fury, is another question. Grand it is, undoubtedly; but the sense of imminent danger, that will, in spite of every effort, suggest itself, and the force and distinctness with which every fatal casualty of the kind, with all its circumstances, will intrude itself upon the imagination, renders one painfully alive to the sublimity of the scene. Terror destroys delight; and we could well barter admiration for assurance of security.—Rookwood.

Old Books.—Rarity does give some degree of intrinsic value to a certain class of old books—as illustrative of manners and the progress of language;—but he who takes up this amusement, is almost always apt to lay too much stress upon it. Sir Egerton Brydges was fond of bibliography from the age of thirteen, and began at school to collect editions of Horace.

Selzer Water.—At Nieder-Selters, in the Duchy of Nassau, where the celebrated refreshing Selzer water is obtained, the moralists preach on bottles. Life, they say, is a sound bottle, and death a cracked one—thoughtless men are empty bottles—drunken men are leaky ones; and a man highly educated, fit to appear in any country and in any society, is, of course, a bottle corked, rosined, and stamped with the seal of the Duke of Nassau. By the way, Sir Francis Head considers the best analysis he can offer of the Selzer water, is the plain fact, that the inhabitants of the village, who have drunk it all their lives, were certainly, by many degrees, the healthiest and ruddiest-looking peasants he any where met with in the dominions of the Duke of Nassau.

Books.—The strictly original authors are incredibly few. Most books are, more or less, the result of memory or compilation; while the original thoughts that are intermixed, are faint and imperfect. In youth and middle age we can read almost anything: as we grow old, we grow very fastidious. Nothing secondary can any longer interest us: we demand what rises, like the freshness of the morning breath, from the pure earth.—Sir E. Brydges.

Dwarf Marriage.—A dwarf, named Don Santiago de los Santos, during his exhibitory travels, was lately married to another dwarf, Miss Hipkins, at Birmingham. The Don is 48 years of age, and about 25 inches high; and Miss Hipkins is 28 years of age, and about 40 inches high. The bride and bridegroom were carried to church in a sedan, and the High Bailiff of Birmingham gave away the bride.

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